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Atty. Dkt. No. 028567-0146

JAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 MAY 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiromi KATAOKA

Title: SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING APPARATUS, METHOD OF SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING, PROGRAM FOR SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING, AND FRACTIONATION APPARATUS

Appl. No.: Unasigned

Filing Date: 05/22/2006

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 13 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 19 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: